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### **Berlin Cancer Society Tolerates Cooperation of Members of its Foundation's Board of Trustees with the Tobacco Industry**

Dear Sir or Madam,

on March 20<sup>th</sup> 2013 Reemtsma's award presentation ceremony for the company's Liberty Award was staged in Berlin. With a market share of 24.3 % Reemtsma is the second biggest cigarette producing company in Germany. Reemtsma is a part of the Imperial Tobacco Group. The company's Liberty Award includes a prize money of 15,000 Euro and has been awarded for the seventh time.

This year the award was presented by jury member Dr. Claudia Nothelle. Dr. Nothelle is the programme director of the Berlin Brandenburg Broadcasting Company and also chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Berlin Cancer Foundation. The Berlin Cancer Foundation is part of the Berlin Cancer Society.

Asked for a statement, Dr. Nothelle did not see a problem in her participation in the tobacco company's award ceremony, though she conceded, that companies award prizes to better their images. Subsequently we asked the chairman of the Berlin Cancer Society, Prof. Dr. h.c. P. M. Schlag, to disengage Dr. Nothelle from her post as chairwoman of the board of trustees. Prof. Dr. h.c. P. M. Schlag answered, that the demand for such a demission was not justified. Thus the participation of Dr. Nothelle in an event hosted by a tobacco company has now become a problem of the Berlin Cancer Society. This problem is intensified by the fact that another member of the board of trustees of the Berlin Cancer Foundation, Gero von Boehm, participated in the event.

Prof. Dr. h.c. P. M. Schlag justifies his decision arguing that Dr. Nothelle's bearing would not shed a positive light on the tobacco industry. Nevertheless she allows Reemtsma to use her name in advertising the company's award, as the company does for example in its press releases. As stated above, Dr. Nothelle is aware of the fact, that Reemtsma uses the award to better its image. It should be taken for granted that the chairwoman of the board of

trustees of a cancer foundation clearly disassociates herself from the tobacco industry. In this case however a clear distance is not perceptible.

The guidelines for the implementation of Article 5.3 of the Law on the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control can be seen as a standard for dealing with the tobacco industry. These guidelines state, that there is a fundamental and irreconcilable conflict between the tobacco industry's interests and public health policy interests.

As chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Berlin Cancer Foundation Dr. Nothelle advocates public health policy interests. These are in no way consistent with her appearance at an event hosted by the tobacco industry.

There can be absolutely no doubt, that any connection between the Berlin Cancer Society and the tobacco industry must be terminated. We therefor ask You to address the Berlin Cancer Society and to aim for the disengagement of Dr. Nothelle from her post of chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Berlin Cancer Foundation. Please direct Your letter or email to:

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Kaiserin-Friedrich-Haus  
Robert-Koch-Platz 7  
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[info@berliner-krebsgesellschaft.de](mailto:info@berliner-krebsgesellschaft.de)

With our best thanks and sincere regards

Johannes Spatz

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